

California Coastal Currents

News and information from the California Coastal Commission

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WELCOME...

These are challenging and exciting times. The Age of the Internet has introduced technology allowing fast, efficient exchange of information. In light of this technology and new fiscal support from the Davis administration, the Coastal Commission is pleased to present this edition of California Coastal Currents, the first feature of our recently reinstated Local Assistance Program.

We, as partners in coastal management, have the opportunity to apply and strengthen effective principles of coastal stewardship. This newsletter is intended to facilitate communication and the exchange of ideas and information between the Coastal Commission, local governments, and other coastal managers at the local, regional, state and federal levels. Although our resources are currently limited, we hope to expand this service in the future through, among other means, training and technical workshops.

The direction our Local Assistance Program takes depends on you. I urge you to let us know what types of assistance and information would be most beneficial to you. Your responses will help

shape the content of future issues as well as the direction of the Program.

As you well know, the coast is never finally saved—it is always being saved. That is why our work is never done. Coastal management is a dynamic, adaptive process predicated on knowledge, sound science and a fundamental appreciation of its importance to current and future generations. Ours is not a static field of endeavor. Indeed, the physical, legal, informational, institutional and political landscape in which we do our jobs is constantly changing. Accordingly, it is essential that we share information and technical resources in a manner that is mutually supportive and builds capacity at all levels.

I look forward to continuing our work together to protect the human and natural community environmental values of California's geographic soul—its coast.

—Peter Douglas
Executive Director



CHANGES TO THE COASTAL ACT

Last year the California Legislature amended the California Coastal Act. Two bills—AB 492 and AB 848—made modest changes to the Act.

AB 492 restricts the sale of State-owned land. The State may not sell property to a private party if the land is located between the Pacific Coast Highway and the ocean. The restriction also applies to land designated as part of the California Coastal Trail. Exceptions include circumstances where:

1. The state retains a permanent property interest in the land that will ensure adequate public access;
2. The State sells or transfers the land to a nonprofit organization that preserves land for public

use; or,

3. The Department of Parks and Recreation or the State Coastal Conservancy makes specified findings about the transfer or sale of the property.

The second bill, AB 848, created a new application process for film productions in coastal areas. If a community has a Commission-certified local coastal program (LCP), the local government may give authority to the Coastal Commission to process and issue coastal development permits (CDPs) for temporary production sets. Ordinarily, the Commission would only have jurisdiction if someone appealed the local government's permit approval. Now, if a local government

chooses, applicants for film productions can apply directly to the Commission to avoid the potential appeal process. The new procedure is only applicable for productions lasting fewer than 190 days.

For further information about these amendments and related legislative activity, visit the Coastal Commission's Legislative Office web page at

www.coastal.ca.gov/leginfo/leginfo.html.

Or call the Commission's Legislative Coordinator, Sarah Christie, at 916.445.6067. More general legislative information is accessible from California's official legislative web site at **www.leginfo.ca.gov**.

CALIFORNIA TAKES ON NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

A new state plan to address polluted runoff is shaping the provisions of Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) and coastal development permits. The California Coastal Commission and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) recently adopted a plan to reduce so-called nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, the most common source of water degradation in California. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration approved this statewide plan, titled the *Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program*, earlier this month. To successfully carry out the plan, both LCPs and coastal permits must incorporate the latest information and methods for preventing polluted runoff.

Because NPS has so many origins, from city streets to farms, docks and construction sites, the plan calls for resource managers to work closely with landowners to find practical solutions. The plan organizes NPS pollution into six administrative categories:

1. Agriculture;
2. Forestry;
3. Urban Areas;

4. Marinas and Recreational Boating;
5. Hydromodification;
6. Wetlands, Riparian Areas, and Vegetated Treatment Systems.

Within each category, the plan describes management measures—61 in all—that help reduce polluted runoff. These measures will serve as tools for managers and landowners to control and prevent NPS. For example, local governments will incorporate applicable management measures into LCPs.

Over 30 agencies will carry out the NPS program by developing and implementing their own strategies. The lead agencies—the Coastal Commission, SWRCB, and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards—will help other organizations develop 5-year implementation plans. By developing individual strategies, each agency contributes to NPS prevention on various levels: statewide, regional, and local.

The Coastal Commission has developed its own 5-year implementation plan called the *Plan for Controlling Polluted Runoff* (CPR Plan). The CPR Plan explains how the Commission will protect vulner-

able sites on the coast, in large part by helping local coastal governments use NPS management measures. As the Commission reviews LCPs, it promotes ordinances and policies that incorporate practices that reduce polluted runoff. Additionally, the Commission, in its review of coastal development permits, applies NPS management measures to address the impacts on coastal water quality.

For more information, including details of the 61 management measures, view the *Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program* and the *Coastal Commission's Plan for Controlling Polluted Runoff* by visiting the web page for the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program at

www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html .

Questions may be directed to the Nonpoint Pollution Control Program located in the Coastal Commission's Headquarters Office at 415.904.5200.

RESOURCES FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Coastal managers and the public alike have access to an increasing amount of information and products addressing coastal hazards. Several of these resources are highlighted below:

- ◆ The Beach Erosion and Response document, or BEAR, is now available by request from the California Coastal Commission. This document provides general information about types of shorelines and seawalls, as well as guidance for analyzing shoreline activities. To receive a copy, call the Technical Services Unit in the Headquarters Office at 415.904.5240.
- ◆ The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently published a report, *Evaluation of Erosion Hazards*, which describes anticipated losses from coastal erosion. The report can be viewed at **www.fema.gov/nwz00/erosion.htm**.
- ◆ The National Ocean Service (NOS) offers a variety of coastal management products available directly from the Web. To access tools such as environmental sensitivity maps, coastal aerial photography, and water level station data, visit **mapfinder.nos.noaa.gov**.

WHALE TAIL GRANTS

Whale tail license plates do more than make an environmental statement; they help fund the Commission's competitive grant programs. This year, the Commission awarded \$45,500 to government and non-profit groups through two programs: the "Whale Tail Grant Program for Coastal and Marine Education" and the "Adopt-A-Beach Grant Program." Next year, the Commission expects to increase that amount to \$200,000.

Six organizations received grant money this year:

1. The Ventura Junior Lifeguard Program of the California Department of Parks and Recreation received funding for the Channel Islands Coastal Experience Camp for youth at risk;
2. Chaffee Zoological Gardens in Fresno will use its grant to add an ocean component to their Wild Connections Lab curriculum for 4th, 5th and 6th graders from the Central San Joaquin Valley;
3. The San Mateo County Office of Outdoor Education will also add a new curriculum, Ocean Odyssey, for an outdoor education camp for 5th and 6th graders;
4. Solana Recyclers of Encinitas will direct its grant to the Student Environmental Action and Leadership Program. High school students will learn about marine conservation and pollution prevention and will also serve as mentors to elementary school children;
5. San Onofre State Beach of the California Department of Parks and Recreation received a grant to provide bus service so that 1,400 more students can participate in the Adopt-A-Beach Program;
6. Heal the Bay, Los Angeles is using its award to continue as the Los Angeles County coordinator of the Adopt-A-Beach program.

Commission staff evaluate grant proposals based on the educational component, the overall concept, and the proposal content. The Commission also looks for projects that have a life beyond the term of the grant and are geographically distributed throughout the state, including inland communities. In addition to programs that provide for school-age children, evaluators would like to see creative projects that serve a variety of other audiences.

This fall, the Commission will solicit applications for 2001 awards. Keep an eye on this spot for future announcements. Application guidelines and forms will be available on the Commission's web site. For additional information on these or other public education projects, e-mail Coast4U@coastal.ca.gov, or call (800) COAST-4U.

COASTAL COMMISSION CALENDAR

AUGUST 8-11, 2000

Commission Meeting—The August Commission meeting will be held at the Waterfront Hilton Beach Resort, 21100 Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach. The Coastal Commission's web page, www.coastal.ca.gov, features meeting schedules, current and previous agendas, as well as selected staff reports for upcoming meetings.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2000

Model Urban Runoff Training Workshop—The Coastal Commission's Water Quality Unit is sponsoring a technical training workshop for local cities and counties that need to begin a stormwater program. The Model Urban Runoff Program provides valuable information on how your municipality can achieve "Clean Water and Phase II Stormwater Compliance." The workshop is free and runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Marinovich Community Center, 120 Second Street in Watsonville. For questions, call the Commission's Santa Cruz office at 831.427.4863.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2000

Coastal Cleanup Day—Join 50,000 other Californians for the 16th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit the Public Education web page at www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html.

LCP FUNDING 2000/2001

Attention local coastal governments! The new State budget includes funding for Local Coastal Programs (LCPs). The Commission has \$500,000 to allocate to local governments that are updating or completing LCPs. The Commission intends to send out grant applications to planning directors during the first week of August. Additionally, applicants will be able to download the application from the Local Assistance web page. Applications will be due in September, with Commission action on the grants expected in November or December 2000. So, watch your snail-mail in the next couple of weeks for the application packet and check our web page—

www.coastal.ca.gov/la/landx.html
— for further updates.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL CURRENTS

is published periodically by the Local Assistance Program of the California Coastal Commission. Please contact Susan Swift at currents@coastal.ca.gov or 415.904.2335 to submit information or to comment on the content of this newsletter. To subscribe, send e-mail to currents@coastal.ca.gov with "subscribe" as the subject. In the body of the message, please include your name, title, affiliation, address, phone, and fax numbers. To unsubscribe, send an e-mail message to currents@coastal.ca.gov using "unsubscribe" as the subject. The newsletter can be faxed to those without email. Please call for further information.

General questions about the Commission may be directed to the Headquarters Office in San Francisco at 415.904.5200. Written correspondence can be sent to 45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000, San Francisco, CA 94105.